

U.S. National Stage Application
of PCT/US99/08055
Docket No. 10551/147

computing the transient amplitude of the remaining audio signal;
generating a second ratio, the second ratio being a ratio of the computed
preferred audio signal transient amplitude to an instantaneous amplitude of the
preferred audio signal;

generating a third ratio, the third ratio being a ratio of the computed
secondary audio transient amplitude to an instantaneous amplitude of the remaining
audio signal;

modifying the preferred audio signal based on the second ratio; and
modifying the remaining audio signal based on the third ratio;

wherein the preferred audio signal and the remaining audio signal are
modified to maintain the first ratio during transient changes in at least one of the
preferred audio signal and the remaining audio signal.

54. A method for optimizing a playing of an audio program, the audio program
including a preferred audio signal and a remaining audio signal output to end users, the
end users including both hearing impaired and non-hearing impaired listeners,
comprising:

amplifying the preferred audio signal to a level specified by a user;
amplifying the remaining audio signal to a level specified by the user; and
modifying the outputs of the preferred audio signal amplification step and
the remaining audio amplification step using a feedback correction loop so that an
actual preferred audio signal to remaining audio signal (PSRA) ratio corresponds to the
user's desired value of the preferred audio signal to remaining audio signal (PSRA)
ratio.

REMARKS

Claims 34, 36-44, 53 and 54 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment,
claims 1-11, 18-27, 35, 45-48, 50 and 52 are canceled without prejudice and disclaimer,
claim 36 is amended to be placed in independent form, and claims 53 and 54 are

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added. During the international search and examination phase, the title was amended and claims 12-17 28-33, 49 and 51 were cancelled. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-220-4207 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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